UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/551
S/1996/873
23 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 23 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 October 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-29171 (E) 281096

/...

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 October 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the latest allegations made by the Greek Cypriot side in the letter dated 8 October 1996 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations (A/51/487-S/1996/846 of 11 October 1996).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations regarding so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in my successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 9 August 1996 (see A/50/1020-S/1996/650 of 13 August 1996). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no different or credible than the ones previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate briefly, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The aim of the Greek Cypriot administration in making allegations regarding the "national airspace of Cyprus" or its "sovereignty and territorial integrity" is, as I have repeatedly pointed out before, to uphold the myth that there is only one sovereign authority in Cyprus, namely the Greek Cypriot side, which has jurisdiction and authority over the whole island. Furthermore, such allegations are designed to create a smokescreen for the Greek Cypriot side's policy of escalation, which involves an intensive campaign of militarization, a plethora of provocations and the refusal to engage in dialogue.

A recent example of this confrontational and negative posture has been the massive joint military exercises staged by Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration that took place from 4 to 9 October 1996. These exercises, code-named "Nikiforos-Toxotis 96" and carried out under the slogans "Greece is here" and "Cyprus Hellenism Is Secure", constituted a serious provocation towards the Turkish Cypriot side and have increased tension in the island. They turned out to be a real show of force in which the Greek Air Force and Navy also took part, and, as also openly declared by the Greek Cypriot leadership, they had an offensive character. Sophisticated weapons were exhibited during these exercises and a warlike atmosphere was created, as the forces of Greece and the Greek Cypriot National Guard sought to put into action the so-called "joint defence doctrine".

I trust that all outside third parties who wish to contribute to the efforts for the finding of a solution to the Cyprus question through negotiations will see to it that the Greek Cypriot side abandons this policy of escalation and tension, which threatens the peace and equilibrium in our region, and takes the necessary steps in the direction of establishing trust and confidence in the island without any delay.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/874
23 October 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As the representative of the State currently holding the Presidency of the statutory organs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the decision of 17 October 1996 of the CIS Council of Heads of State concerning an extension of and an addition to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) C. LAVROV

96-28727 (E) 231096 231096

/...

Annex

Decision concerning an extension of and an addition to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS),

Confirming their previous decisions and commitments concerning the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia,

Noting that the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces facilitates the stabilization of the situation in the conflict zone and the creation of the conditions for a comprehensive political settlement in that region,

Has decided:

1. To extend with the consent of the Parties the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, until 31 January 1997 or until such time as one of the Parties to the conflict calls for the termination of the operation.

2. To add the following provisions to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces:

- In order to create the conditions under which the security of refugees in the Gali region (within the old frontiers) can be guaranteed, in addition to the functions of the CIS peacekeeping forces under the Ceasefire and Separation of Forces Agreement of 14 May 1994, the Collective Peacekeeping Forces, in conjunction and in cooperation with the local organs of power of the Parties, shall take measures to terminate the activities of the terrorist subversive formations and other armed groups both positioned in the region and entering it from outside;

- They shall guarantee the security of the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and of other international organizations at their request and in agreement with the local organs of power.

3. To instruct the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Commonwealth and the Council of Ministers of Defence of the States Members of the Commonwealth to continue to work together with the representatives of the Parties to update the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the light of developments in the situation in the conflict zone and in accordance with the decisions of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of 19 January 1996 and 17 May 1996.

4. To urge the Parties to step up their efforts to achieve, through the mediation of the Russian Federation, practical results in the negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

This Decision has been adopted in accordance with the procedure established in rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE in Moscow on 17 October 1996 in one original copy in the Russian language. The original copy shall be deposited in the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which shall transmit a certified copy to each State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

B. YELTSIN
President of the Council of Heads
of State of the Commonwealth of
Independent States

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/874*
11 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As the representative of the State currently holding the Presidency of the statutory organs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the decision of 17 October 1996 of the CIS Council of Heads of State concerning an extension of and an addition to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) C. LAVROV

* Reissued for technical reasons.

96-31215 (E) 111196 121196

/...

Annex

Decision concerning an extension of and an addition to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS),

Confirming their previous decisions and commitments concerning the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia,

Noting that the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces facilitates the stabilization of the situation in the conflict zone and the creation of the conditions for a comprehensive political settlement in that region,

Has decided:

1. To extend with the consent of the Parties the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, until 31 January 1997 or until such time as one of the Parties to the conflict calls for the termination of the operation.

2. To add the following provisions to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces:

- In order to create the conditions under which the security of refugees in the Gali region (within the old frontiers) can be guaranteed, in addition to the functions of the CIS peacekeeping forces under the Ceasefire and Separation of Forces Agreement of 14 May 1994, the Collective Peacekeeping Forces, in conjunction and in cooperation with the local organs of power of the Parties, shall take measures to terminate the activities of the terrorist subversive formations and other armed groups both positioned in the region and entering it from outside;

- They shall ensure the security of the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and of other international organizations at their request and in agreement with the local organs of power.

3. To instruct the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Commonwealth and the Council of Ministers of Defence of the States Members of the Commonwealth to continue to work together with the representatives of the Parties to update the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the light of developments in the situation in the conflict zone and in accordance with the decisions of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of 19 January 1996 and 17 May 1996.

4. To urge the Parties to step up their efforts to achieve, through the mediation of the Russian Federation, practical results in the negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

This Decision has been adopted in accordance with the procedure established in rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE in Moscow on 17 October 1996 in one original copy in the Russian language. The original copy shall be deposited in the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which shall transmit a certified copy to each State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

B. YELTSIN
President of the Council of Heads
of State of the Commonwealth of
Independent States

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/875
25 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to developments in eastern Zaire, and especially in South Kivu Province, where the situation has been deteriorating to an alarming degree during recent weeks.

New tensions have arisen in the Uvira, Mwanga and Fizi districts of South Kivu Province which for several generations have been home to about 350,000 people known as the Banyamulenge. They speak the language of Rwanda and include both Hutus and Tutsis, though the majority are Tutsis. They were already settled in this area when Zaire became independent in 1960. In 1972, like all persons living within Zaire's borders, they were granted Zairean nationality. A nationality law of 1981 subsequently withdrew this status from them but the law was not enforced until the early months of 1996. There has since been pressure on the Banyamulenge to leave Zaire and move to Rwanda. Their situation is thus similar to that of the Masisi people in North Kivu whose plight has previously attracted the Council's concern.

Hostilities have now broken out in the area inhabited by the Banyamulenge, which has been declared a military zone. Since the first half of September the Zairean Armed Forces have launched an offensive against armed Tutsi groups there and this has allegedly led to attacks on Banyamulenge civilians. It is equally alleged that armed Tutsi groups have attacked civilian targets. As a result tension has increased on the border between Rwanda and Zaire, including cross-border exchanges of heavy weapons fire and mutual accusations between the two Governments.

On 13 September 1996, Zaire accused the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of providing logistical support to armed Banyamulenge groups infiltrating Zaire from Rwanda and Burundi. It also accused UNHCR of having repatriated to Rwanda in 1994-1995 about 3,000 young Banyamulenge, who were later trained by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA). Given the seriousness of these allegations, on 21 September 1996 I dispatched Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahima Fall to Kinshasa as my Special Envoy, with a letter that I had written to Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo. Following discussions with my Special Envoy, the Government of Zaire agreed that UNHCR had not in fact been involved in the alleged activities.

Meanwhile, violence in the area has continued to grow. On 6 October, armed persons, alleged to be Banyamulenge, attacked the hospital at Lemera (mid-way between Bukavu and Uvira) and reportedly killed 34 patients, 4 male nurses and 2 doctors. They also killed 2 priests and 12 other people in Kidore Catholic Church.

On 10 October 1996, I issued a statement in which I called on the parties to do everything in their power to keep the situation calm while solutions were being sought for both the immediate and the underlying problems. On the same day, however, I learned with concern that General Eluki Monga-a-Ondo, the Chief of Staff of the Zairean Armed Forces, had again accused UNHCR of involvement in what he described as "an aggression against Zaire". The next day, I issued a further statement, in which I expressed concern over the deteriorating situation and the fighting between the Zairean Armed Forces and groups of Banyamulenge. I recalled the positive results of my Special Envoy's mission and urged the Zairean authorities to withdraw their allegations, which could pose a grave threat to the security of United Nations staff in the area.

During the night of 12-13 October, the refugee camp of Runingo on the Ruzizi Plain, with a population of approximately 15,000 Hutu refugees from Burundi and Rwanda, was attacked by assailants who were reportedly Banyamulenge. Four refugees were killed and six were wounded. According to the Zairean Refugee Camp Security Contingent (ZCSC) sources, an estimated 200-300 Banyamulenge allegedly crossed the Ruzizi river from Burundi, attacked the camp and then moved to the hills behind Uvira. The population of the site fled to nearby camps in fear of further attacks. The ZCSC provided reinforcements to protect the camp on the night of 13 October, and the refugees have now returned to the site.

Meanwhile, this growth in violence is having a damaging impact on the ability of humanitarian agencies to pursue their work in this needy area. Internationally recruited staff have had to be temporarily withdrawn to more secure locations and the United Nations system is preparing contingency plans for a potential humanitarian crisis. On 7 October the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees proposed a comprehensive approach to overcome the present stalemate in addressing the problem of refugees in the Great Lakes region as a whole. Her proposal has been discussed with high-level representatives from affected countries who attended the annual meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee last week. It received widespread support there and it is now being discussed in the capitals concerned. UNHCR eagerly awaits the outcome of these discussions.

I have come to the conclusion that this deteriorating situation requires me to offer my good offices to assist the Government of Zaire in addressing the political and security aspects of the problems in the eastern part of the country, not only because of the threat they present to peace and the security in the region but also because they could have a negative impact on the efforts already launched by the United Nations, at that Government's request, to provide assistance to the elections planned for 1997. I have accordingly asked Assistant Secretary-General Fall to return to Zaire in the coming days and, after consulting the Government of Zaire, to report to me on action which the United Nations could usefully take.

I shall report further to the Security Council after receiving Mr. Fall's report.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI